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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/867,227	05/29/2001	Thomas Z. Fu	IP 6037	5926
7590 Richard C. Stewart II International Paper Corporation 6825 Tri-Ridge Boulevard Loveland, OH 45140				
EXAMINER				
DICUS, TAMRA				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1794				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/18/2008		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/867,227

**Applicant(s)**

FU ET AL.

**Examiner**

TAMRA L. DICUS

**Art Unit**

1794

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-19, 21-24, 34 and 35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-19, 21-24, 34 and 35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/C)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. The RCE is acknowledged.
2. The previous rejection is withdrawn due to Applicant's arguments.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 15-19, 21-24 and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,605,750 to Romano in view of USPN 6,773,771 B1 to Ashida et al. or US 6153305 A to Uemura et al.

Romano teaches a microporous ink receiving media comprising a microporous polymeric sheet/film that may be stretched at col. 12, lines 8-24 (claim 34) where a microparticle coating is applied on one side of the film (claims 15 and 34). See col. 2, lines 20-24, col. 3, line 24, col. 5, lines 6-35, and col. 18, lines 55-68. The microporous material coating comprises a crosslinked polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA, col. 8, line 55) and colloidal inorganic silica or alumina and submicroscopic particles (col. 6, lines 54-68, col. 7, lines 45-48, lines 65-col. 8, line 5) (meeting instant claims 15-17's colloidal inorganic particles, claim 34's limitation of a submicron particle, and the coating composition of claim 35). See col. 13, lines 29-45. Romano teaches it is also known to add polyurethane (PU) at col. 3, line 41, (claim 18) and polyvinyl alcohol as a binder at

col. 14, lines 34-36 (claim 19). The binder is added in 5-75 wt % and the colloidal inorganic boehmite particle from 5-50 wt%, thus because the parts recited equate to 100 (weight percentage is based off total of 100), the weight percentage range recited in the prior art is within the claimed range. See col. 14, lines 40-46. See also col. 8, lines 25-35 to silica in 90% by weight of the microporous material and the balance of the microporous material being of thermoplastic organic polymer (thus meaning 10% by weight, and meeting Applicant's recitation of weight percentage of colloidal inorganic particles being greater than the weight percent of the binder). A substrate is laminated to the microporous film at col. 2, lines 25-39 and col. 3, lines 18-23 (claim 24). Romano teaches a microparticle coating further comprising well known additives of claims 22 and 23 such as a plasticizer and surfactants such as non-ionic, cationic, or fluorocarbon surfactants at col. 2, line 46 and col. 8, lines 59-61. Romano adds polypropylene at col. 4, line 12 (claim 21). Thus, claims 15-19, 21-24 and 34-35 are met.

While Romano teaches a crosslinked polymethyl methacrylate (col. 8, line 55), Romano does not explicitly teach the coating contains a crosslinking agent.

Ashida teaches an ink jet recording sheet comprising a coating solution mixing inorganic silica and a crosslinking agent in combination with a hydrophilic binder (such as polyvinyl alcohol) formed in an ink-receptive layer that provides the effects of preventing from the media from cracking, blurring under high humidity and peeling of the surface. See col. 4, 5:55-6:30.

Uemura teaches an ink jet recording where inorganic pigments, binder, and crosslinking agents are added in the ink-receiving layer (see 7:44-68) for the purpose of controlling the swelling and solubility time within the layer.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the ink receiving media of Romano to include a crosslinking agent because Ashida teaches a crosslinking agent used in an ink receiving layer prevents cracking, blurring under high humidity and peeling of the surface as cited above.

Additionally, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to have modified the ink receiving media of Romano to include a crosslinking agent because Uemura teaches a crosslinking agent used in an ink receiving layer for the purpose of controlling the swelling and solubility time within the layer as cited above.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Conclusion***

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TAMRA L. DICUS whose telephone number is (571)272-1519. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00-4:30 p.m., alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tamra L. Dicus /TLD/  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1794

February 28, 2008

/Terrel Morris/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group Art Unit 1794